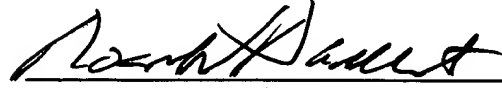


Examination of this application on its merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

PARKHURST & WENDEL, L.L.P.

June 15, 2001  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Roger W. Parkhurst  
Registration No. 25,177

Attachment:

Mark Up of Amended Claims

RWP/ame

Attorney Docket No. CELA:082

PARKHURST & WENDEL, L.L.P.  
1421 Prince Street, Suite 210  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314-2805  
Telephone: (703) 739-0220

5. An unlockable mechanical linking device according to ~~one of Claims 3 or 4~~ Claim 3, wherein the pyrotechnic component (23) is integral with the piston (21).

6. An unlockable mechanical linking device according to Claim 5, wherein the cylindrical bore (20) delimited by the tips (15) is extended by a chamber (27) intended to receive the gas pressure generated by igniting the pyrotechnic component (23).

7. An unlockable mechanical linking device according to ~~one of Claims 5 or 6~~ Claim 5, wherein the piston (21) incorporates a second cylindrical seat (29) of a diameter less than that of the cylindrical surface (22) or first seat retaining the tips, said second seat being positioned opposite the bore (20) delimited by the tips (15) when the piston (21) is translated under the action of the gas pressure, thereby allowing the tips (15) to bend in the direction of the piston (21), such bending allowing the external profile (18) of the tips (15) to be disengaged from its matching profile (19).

8. An unlockable mechanical linking device according to Claim 7, wherein the second cylindrical seat (29) is delimited on one side by a collar (30) guiding the piston (21) with respect to an internal cylindrical surface (28) of the chamber (27).

9. An unlockable mechanical linking device according to Claim 8, wherein, after the piston (21) has translated, the collar (30) is housed in a groove (31) arranged at one end of the chamber (27).

10. An unlockable mechanical linking device according to ~~one of Claims 3 to 9~~ Claim 3, wherein the cylindrical surface (22), or first piston seat retaining the tips incorporates a rib (33) co-operating with a circular groove arranged on the cylindrical surface of the internal bore (20) so as to ensure the axial positioning of the piston (21) in its retention position.

11. An unlockable mechanical linking device according to ~~one of Claims 3 to 10~~ Claim 3, wherein it incorporates

**12.** An unlockable mechanical linking device according to ~~one of Claims 2 to 4~~ Claim 2, wherein the first of the mechanical elements carrying the deformable tips (15) comprises a threaded part (68) forming the shaft of a screw, the second mechanical element constituting a head (67) for said screw.

**14.** An unlockable mechanical linking device according to ~~one of Claims 12 or 13~~ Claim 12, wherein the axial bore (20) receiving the piston (21) is arranged in the screw shaft (68).

**16.** An unlockable mechanical linking device according to ~~one of Claims 14 or 15~~ Claim 14, wherein the piston (21) incorporates a ring-shaped sealing ring (73) co-operating with an internal cylindrical surface of the bore (20).

**18.** An unlockable mechanical linking device according to Claim 2, wherein the locking means comprise at least two

jaws (45) each having a profile co-operating with a matching profile integral with the second mechanical element, each jaw (45) being able to move radially in a radial housing (44) integral with the first element so as  
 5 to be engaged in or disengaged from the matching profile, such jaws being held in the locking position by the piston (21).

**19.** An unlockable mechanical linking device according to Claim 18, wherein the external profile of the jaws (45)  
 10 is a threaded profile.

**20.** An unlockable mechanical linking device according to ~~one of Claims 18 or 19~~ Claim 18, wherein the jaws (45) are held in contact with the piston (21) by at least one flexible ring (46).

**21.** An unlockable mechanical linking device according to ~~one of Claims 18 to 20~~ Claim 18, wherein the piston (21) incorporates translation stop means (47) ensuring its immobilization with respect to the first mechanical element, such stop means being fractured when the  
 20 pyrotechnic component (23) is ignited.

**22.** An unlockable mechanical linking device according to ~~one of Claims 18 to 21~~ Claim 18, wherein the pyrotechnic component (23) is integral with the first mechanical element.

**23.** An unlockable mechanical linking device according to ~~one of Claims 19 to 22~~ Claim 19, wherein the second mechanical element is formed by a nut (36) co-operating with the threaded profile of the jaws (45).

**24.** An unlockable mechanical linking device according to Claim 1, wherein the locking means are formed by at least two balls (48) that are housed in holes (50) arranged in a tubular sleeve (51) integral with the first (10) of the mechanical elements and co-operating with a groove (56) integral with the second mechanical element (49), the balls  
 30 (48) being held in place by the piston (21), which is positioned inside the tubular sleeve (51) and coaxial to it.  
 35

